

DOCKET NO: 246770US2CIP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
TOSHIKI TAKAHASHI, ET AL. : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION  
SERIAL NO: NEW CONT. APPLN. :  
(Based on PCT/JP02/12826)  
FILED: HEREWITH :  
FOR: EXHAUST RING MECHANISM :  
AND PLASMA PROCESSING :  
APPARATUS USING THE SAME :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.